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Alkaline earth organometallic compounds in homogeneous catalysis

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2016

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Penafiel, J. (2016). *Alkaline earth organometallic compounds in homogeneous catalysis: Synthesis, characterization and catalytic activity of calcium and magnesium complexes*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

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Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift

van Johanne Penafiel

1. As scientific disciplines are getting more and more specialized, interdisciplinary communication is becoming a task of growing difficulty. In this context, the message needs to be formulated in such a form that it is accessible to everyone without devaluing its content.
2. "There is strong pressure on the scientific community to investigate the transformations of this unreactive carbon source and to exploit the abundance of CO₂." (Chapter 3) I am of the opinion that this sentence uncovers one of the major discordances in the scientific community. We need to get an in depth understanding (investigate) of a process for its efficient development (exploitation) but the gap between fundamental and applied science does not allow for full application of the scientific knowledge. This may be due to the lack of efficient interdisciplinary communication (see Stellingen 1)?
3. Although the commercial use of the term *organic* or *bio* is regulated, it seems to me that there is a general misunderstanding, and therefore misuse, of a few chemical concepts related to these notions. I would like to recall some of them:
 - Everything is made of chemicals.
 - Natural chemicals are not always good and artificial chemicals are not always bad.
 - There is no difference between the "natural" and the "synthetic" version of a chemical.
4. When facing a problem, Germans are known to use a logical and rational mindset. Somehow, beer is always included in their line of thought. Exceptions to the rule will be celebrated with a beer.
5. Talking to and encouraging your reaction vessels is good; they do listen sometimes.
6. A good day always starts with a good breakfast.
7. People will always find something to complain about and weather is the ultimate option.
8. The submission of scientific manuscripts should be like the peer review process - anonymous.
9. You cannot treasure happiness if you have never felt sadness. You cannot value confidence if you have never experienced fear. You cannot fully enjoy a good day if you have never had a bad day. Just make sure that the equilibrium is shifted towards happiness, confidence and good days.
10. Publication in scientific journals or books is necessary to academic research and is indispensable for scientific progress. One's publication record is also used to evaluate one's research. Unfortunately, it is the main (and only) evaluation tool and, consequently, has become an obsession. Despite countless long-hour discussions, I haven't found or heard of any additional suitable evaluation tools.

11. Scientists tend to focus on results that support a theory but major discoveries have been made when results refuted a theory.
12. Common sense statements do not need references.